

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: TV COMMENTATOR ON US-USSR RELATIONS

1. VALENTIN ZORIN LUNCHEDED WITH EMBOFF APRIL 19 AND DIS-
COURSEDED ON SEVERAL CURRENT TOPICS INCLUDING "SONNENFELDT
DOCTRINE" AND ANGOLA.

2. ZORIN SAID HE SAW NOTHING NEW IN THE STATEMENTS OF
SONNENFELDT AND KISSINGER REGARDING US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS.
"US POLICY HAS NOT CHANGED IN 15 YEARS," SAID ZORIN. HE
FELT THE REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO SONNENFELDT INDICATING A
NEW STANCE WERE "TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT" AND WERE "A CHEAP
JOURNALIST TRICK" WHICH "ALWAYS OCCURS DURING YOUR
ELECTIONS."

3. HE ADDED THAT SUCH "TWISTS" TO US POLICY AND THE
DIFFICULTY THE FORD ADMINISTRATION WAS HAVING WITH
"DETENTE," WERE NATURALLY OF CONCERN TOSOVET LEADERS WHO
WORRIED THAT NEGATIVE STATEMENTS ON US-USSR RELATIONS
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WOULD HAVE AN EFFECT LASTING BEYOND THE ELECTION CAM-

PAIGN. CITING "MY GOOD FRIEND ARBATOV," WHO RECENTLY APPEARED ON ZORIN'S "9TH STUDIO" TV PROGRAM, THE COMMENTATOR SAID MOSTSOVIETS HAVE DIFFICULTY UNDERSTANDING WHY THE US MUST TAKE SUCH "CONTRADICTION" POSITIONS DURING ELECTIONS.

4. ZORIN ADMITTED THAT ANGOLA CAME AT A BAD TIME FOR US-USSR RELATIONS, GIVEN THE ELECTION YEAR, BUT HE ASKED IF INTERFERENCE IN ANGOLA WAS ANY WORSE THAN INTERFERENCE IN ITALIAN ELECTIONS. HE WENT ON TO ASSERT THAT USG APPEARED TO BE CONDUCTING CONCERTED EFFORT TO ASSURE THAT COMMUNISTS DID NOT COME TO POWER IN ITALY.

5. REGARDLESS OF HIS CONCERN OVER THE RHETORIC OF THE US ELECTIONS, ZORIN INSISTED THAT HE WAS NOT WORRIED ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTIONS. JACKSON HAS NO CHANCE AT ALL AND REAGAN ONLY A SLIGHT CHANCE TO GAIN THE REPUBLICAN NOMINATION, IN ZORIN'S VIEW. HIS PREDICTION IS THAT HUMPHREY, WITH CARTER AS HIS VP CANDIDATE, WILL DEFEAT FORD IN NOVEMBER. HOWEVER, HE NOTED BOTH THE POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO HUMPHREY'S "NON-CANDIDACY" REPRESENTED BY THE "PRE-CANCER" TREATMENT, AND HE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER "MY FRIEND JIMMY RESTON'S" OPPOSITION TO CARTER. HIS OWN PREFERENCE IS EDWARD KENNEDY, "THE SMARTEST OF THE THREE BROTHERS," BUT ZORIN BELIEVES ONE MORE ELECTION MUST GO BY BEFORE KENNEDY IS PREPARED TO MAKE THE RACE. "EVEN THEN HE MUST BE PREPARED TO BE SHOT," SINCE IN ZORIN'S VIEW THERE IS STILL AN ACTIVE ANTI-KENNEDY CONSPIRACY IN THE US

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